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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Geography Division, ORR

Project Initiation Memorandum

To: Chief, Geographic Research

Project No.: 63.1720

From: Chief, Geography Division

Date: 10 February 1959  
revised 27 Mar. 1959

1. Subject of Proposed Project: The "Olsztyn Region" of Poland.

2. Statement of Problem: (Outline to be attached)

To assess the present status of Polish-administered East Prussia considering particularly resettlement and development, importance of the area to Poland within her present boundaries, Polish intentions for the Olsztyn Region, Polish-Soviet relations in the area, the German claim, and outlook for the future. (See attached Background Statement and Outline)

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3. Requester: Self-initiated

4. Responsible Analyst and Branch:

[Redacted]

D/GG/E

5. Kind and Extent of Cooperation Desired from:

a. Other Divisions of the G Area (include maps):

D/GC: 5 or 6 maps to be prepared by D/GC/S.

~~b. D/GC Domestic Procurement:~~

c. Other parts of CIA: Graphics Register

~~d. Outside CIA:~~

6. Estimated Man Hours in D/GG: 350

7. Probable Completion Date: May 1959

8. Probable Form of Final Publication: CIA/RR-G

9. Recommendations Regarding Distribution of Finished Report:

*Standard distribution*

10. Comments: The report will serve, inter alia, as a vehicle for presenting recently acquired data re the fixing of the westernmost point of Poland USSR boundary and delimitation of Polish and Soviet territorial waters near this point.

Approved:

Chief, Geography Division

Chief, Geographic Research

Date

DOCUMENT NO. 2  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
☐ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS 8  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 1989  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 29 Nov 79 REVIEWER: [Redacted]

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#### BACKGROUND STATEMENT

An assessment of the Olsztyn Region is needed to:

1. Support negotiations regarding the future status of Germany.
- 2. Illuminate other relationships of prime U.S. intelligence interest.
  - a. Soviet control of Poland.
  - b. Polish intentions -- territorial and economic.
  - c. Soviet-Polish relations -- maintenance of Poland's independent line toward certain Bloc patterns.

In developing the report, an attempt will be made to answer such questions as: What is going on in the Olsztyn Region? In what ways have critical prewar patterns changed? How important is the area to Poland within her present boundaries? What is the economic development trend and how has it been influenced by political considerations? etc.

Many intelligence studies of different types prepared during and immediately after World War II cover the Olsztyn Region in addition to other areas. These materials, however, do not record the vast changes that have taken place since 1945 and thus are of little current value. A previous report, CIA/RR-G-19 partially filled the need for up-to-date intelligence on the former German territories between prewar Poland and the Oder-Neisse line. A second report covering Polish-administered East Prussia (the Olsztyn Region) will round out the picture.

The need for up-to-date intelligence on the Olsztyn Region has been attested to by Dr. Etzel Pearcey, Geographer of the Department of State, who expressed a strong interest in the proposed study on behalf of his own office. (See attached letter.)

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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Project 63.1720

1. Introduction

(MAP-ORIENTATION)

- a. Definition of area terms: western territories, recovered territories, Oder-Niesse territories, northern territories, Olaszyn Region, eastern territories, etc.
- b. Historical sketch (brief).

2. Geographic setting

a. Terrain

(MAP-TERRAIN)

b. Climate

c. Political geography

(MAP-POLITICAL)

3. Population

(MAP-POPULATION)

- a. Prewar population
- b. Exodus during and following WW II.
- c. Resettlement - who and where from.
- d. Present population by ethnic and other categories.
- e. Characteristics of present population -- includes great change in religious complexion of the area.
- f. Settlement patterns - ethnic groups mixed in settlements -
  - area less urban -
  - many towns still not rebuilt.
- g. Continuing exodus ('56 and later) of Germans and Germanized autochthons.

4. Economy

(MAP-ECONOMY AND COMMUNICATIONS)

- a. General status of development.
- b. Natural resources.
- c. Agriculture and animal husbandry (collective vs. private farming).
- d. Industry.

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- e. Changes in economic functions and market orientation resulting from division of East Prussia and cession of southern part to Poland.
- f. Influence of political considerations on economic development.
  - (1) Under "secure-the-western-Territories-first" policy, settlement and development of the Olsztyn Region have lagged.
  - (2) Poles would like to step up development of Olsztyn Region, but can't without taking capital away from western territories and projects in old Poland.
  - (3) Polish go-slow on collective farms may stem partly from belief that relatively contented Polish peasantry rooted to self-owned land is best defense against German irredentism.
- 6. Communications
  - a. Great war damage not yet completely repaired.
  - b. Networks adversely affected by division of East Prussia.
- 7. Soviet-Polish relations in and near the Olsztyn Region.
  - a. Poland-USSR boundary
    - (1) control measures and crossings - wide strip of unused land.
    - (2) recent delimitation of Polish and Soviet territorial waters at western end of boundary. (MAP-TERR. WATERS)
  - b. Soviet and Polish military activities in the area - very brief rundown.
  - c. Navigation of Zalaw Wiślany (Frische Haff) - Poles not allowed by Soviets to use Baltiysk channel - a sore point with the Poles.

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- d. Failure of Soviets to cooperate in maintaining water control works in N. East Prussia has kept water levels high in Polish section making much good farm land unusable - a cause of considerable Polish-Soviet friction.
  - e. Soviets "liberated" industrial equipment during and immediately after WW II knowing Olsztyn Region would be ceded to Poland.
  - f. Current Soviet non-cooperation may be a facet of a broad, deliberate effort to pressure the Polish Government toward closer adherence to Bloc patterns.
8. German claim to East Prussia
- a. Bonn and DDR positions.
  - b. Refusal of major western powers to recognize Oder-Neisse boundary gives some strength to German claim, otherwise, from Realpolitik viewpoint, claim is weak.
  - c. Current German "maintenance" of claim is limited to propaganda effort that at least keeps the Poles on edge.
  - d. Some Bonn Germans yearn for return of East Prussia to the Reich, but others take good riddance attitude -- feel the area was an economic liability to Germany prewar.
  - e. Continuing exodus of Germans and Germanized autochthons from East Prussia further weakens German claim.
9. Future outlook
- a. Poles believe "recovered territories" should remain Polish and are sure Olsztyn Region will, but they are less sure about areas contingent to Oder-Neisse line. These attitudes not likely to change unless positions of Germany or interested major powers change.

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- b. Economic growth of Olsztyn Region will lag as long as the western territories and industrial projects in old Poland continue to receive investment priority.
- c. The chances that all or part of the Olsztyn Region will be returned to Germany in foreseeable future are very remote. It would probably require a major war or upheaval in the USSR to bring this about.
- d. Bonn knows chances for recovery of East Prussia are poor but will continue to claim the area until international negotiations offer opportunity to exact a price for giving up claim.
- e. Discordant Soviet-Polish relations in the Olsztyn Region frontier area are not likely to improve unless the Polish Government moves generally toward closer conformity to Bloc patterns.

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